

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 03739 281752Z
ACTION NODS-00

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R 281730Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 907

S E C R E T ROME 3739

NODIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EG, US, IT
SUBJECT: REHABILITATION OF EGYPT'S MIG-21 FLEET

REF: A) STATE 41458, B) ROME 3727

1. RE PARA. 2 OF REF A, EMBASSY HAS SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION ON WHETHER THE MIG REHABILITATION PROJECT WAS DISCUSSED WHEN SADAT VISITED ITALY RECENTLY, GIVEN THE STRICTURE RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN SECOND SENTENCE THAT PARA. HOWEVER, IN FEBRUARY 24 MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND MFA SECRETARY GENERAL MALFATTI (REF B), THE LATTER MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR US HELP FOR THE AILING ITALIAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. MALFATTI LEFT A PAPER WITH THE AMBASSADOR ENTITLED, QUOTE POSSIBLE USA INTERVENTIONS IN FAVOR OF THE ITALIAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. UNQUOTE. THE TEXT OF THAT PAPER WAS FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON IN REF B, EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTION WHICH APPEARED IN THE ITALIAN PAPER BETWEEN THE BULLETS QUOTE ADOPTION OF THE G222 BY THE USA ARMY UNQUOTE AND BULLETS QUOTE INFLUENCE UPON THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES IN FAVOR OF PROCURING G91Y AND F104S AIRCRAFT FROM AERITALIA. UNQUOT: QUOTE -- INFLUENCE UPON THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES, IN ORDER THAT AERITALIA BE GRANTED THE ORDER FOR THE REPAIR AND OVERHAUL OF MIG-21 FIGHTERS.

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NOTE: AERITALIA, IN AGREEMENT WITH LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT SERVICE CO., ON JANUARY 12TH, 1978, HAS SUBMITTED TO THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE AN OFFER FOR THE REPAIR AND OVERHAUL OF A QUANTITY OF 100 MIG 21 FIGHTERS: THE USA SUPPORT TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE DECISION IS REQUESTED. UNQUOTE. GIVEN CONTINUED SENSITIVITY OF THE MIG

REHABILITATIONPROJECT, WE THOUGHT IT BETTER TO FORWARD
THAT PART OF THE MALFATTI PAPER IN THIS MORE RESTRICTED
SERIES.

2. NOW THAT AT LEAST AERITALIA/LOCKHEED PART OF THE MIG
REHAB PROJECT HAS SURFACED IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, EMBASSY DIALOGUE,
WE MAY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROBE A BIT WITH FOREIGN OFFICE
CONTACTS ON WHETHER MIG PROJECT WAS DISCUSSED DURING SADAT'S
ROME STOPOVER.HOLMES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REHABILITATION, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, CAT-B
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Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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